WIKIPEDIA

# Ngkolmpu Kanum language

**Ngkolmpu Kanum**, or **Ngkontar**, is part of a dialect chain in the Yam family spoken by the Kanum people of New Guinea. The Ngkâlmpw (Ngkontar) and moribund Bädi varieties have limited mutual intelligibility may be considered distinct languages.[1]

| Ngkolmpu | |
|---|---|
| Ngkontar | |
| **Region** | New Guinea |
| **Ethnicity** | Kanum |
| **Native speakers** | 100 (2018)[1] |
| **Language family** | Trans-Fly – Bulaka River?<br>▪ Yam<br>▪ Tonda<br>▪ **Ngkolmpu** |
| **Dialects** | Ngkâlmpw (Ngkontar)<br>Bädi |
| **Language codes** | |
| **ISO 639-3** | Either:<br>`kcd` – Ngkâlmpw Kanum<br>`khd` – Bädi Kanum |
| **Glottolog** | `ngka1236 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ngka1236)`[2] |

## Contents


**Dialects**
**Phonology**
Consonants
**Grammar**
Numerals
**External Links**
**References**


## Dialects

Languages spoken by the Kanum have variously been referred to as Ngkâlmpw Kanum, Enkelembu, Kenume, and Knwne.[3][4] Carroll describes three varieties forming a dialect chain. Ngkolmpu is divided into Ngkontar and the moribund variety Baedi (Bädi).

## Phonology

### Consonants

Ngkolmpu Kanum has 15 consonant phonemes (plus two marginal phonemes) at three points of articulation: bilabial, coronal, and velar. Prenasalized voiceless stops and fricatives contrast with voiceless and nasal realizations, which is typologically unusual. The orthography is enclosed in angle brackets.

| | | Bilabial | Coronal | Velar |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Stops** | **Voiceless** | p ⟨p⟩ | t ⟨t⟩ | k ⟨k⟩ |
| | **Prenasalized Voiceless** | mp <mp> | nt <nt> | ŋk <ngk> |
| | **Nasal** | m ⟨m⟩ | n ⟨n⟩ | |
| | **Voiced** | b <b> | | (g) ⟨g⟩ |
| **Fricatives** | **Voiceless** | | s <s> | |
| | **Prenasalized Voiceless** | | $^{n}$s <ns>,<nc> | |
| **Trill** | | | r ⟨r⟩ | |
| **Lateral** | | | l ⟨l⟩ | |
| **Glides** | | w ⟨w⟩ | j ⟨y⟩ | (w) |

# Grammar

The Ngkolmpu (Ngkâlmpw) Kanum variety is notable for its complex verbal inflection and tendency to distribute grammatical features throughout an utterance, referred to as distributed exponence.[4]

## Numerals

Kanum has a base-6 numeral system, which is typologically rare among languages of the world. The numerals are as follows:

| Base Numbers | | Powers of 6 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | naempr | $6^1$ | traowo |
| 2 | yempoka | $6^2$ | ptae |
| 3 | yuow | $6^3$ | tarumpao |
| 4 | eser | $6^4$ | ntamnao |
| 5 | tampui | $6^5$ | ulamaeke |

For example, the numeral 200 is:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *swabra* | *ptae* | *ynaoaemy* | *ntamnao* |
| 5 | $6^2$s (36s) | (and) 2 | (and) 3×6 |

# External Links

- ELAR collection: The Endangered Papuan Languages of Merauke-Indonesia: ethnobiological and linguistic documentation (https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI1032026) deposited by I Wayan Arka

# References

1. Evans, Nicholas (2018). "The languages of Southern New Guinea". In Palmer, Bill (ed.). *The Languages and Linguistics of the New Guinea Area: A Comprehensive Guide*. The World of Linguistics. **4**. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 641–774. ISBN 978-3-11-028642-7.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ngkantr" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ngka1236). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ngkolmpu Kanum language" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kanu1280). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Carroll, Matthew J. (2016). *The Ngkolmpu Language with special reference to distributed exponence* (https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/116801) (PhD thesis). The Australian National University. doi:10.25911/5D74E0CFD5B85 (https://doi.org/10.25911%2F5D74E0CFD5B85).

---

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ngkolmpu_Kanum_language&oldid=949408226"

**This page was last edited on 6 April 2020, at 09:17 (UTC).**

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.